

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2017 SPRING.....ISSUE #2/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



Grandparents and grandkids have a great time at Hoggatt School. Maybe Grandpa attended a one-room school!

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President Sharon Wirth
Co-President Peter Hallock
Secretary Lynette Spicer
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Sarah Kassen, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Clarke Pasley, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Hank Zaletel
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director Casie Vance
Research & Media Specialist Alex Feifar
Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord. Hannah Frederick

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm
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Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open Sundays in 2017, June 4 to August 13, 2-4 pm and by appointment. April to October. Closed November to March.

Say Hello to Hoggatt! Schoolhouse Museum Summer Fun



Please join us Sunday afternoons from June 4 to August 13, 2-4 pm for pleasant times at Hoggatt School, located at 18th and Burnett in Ames.

Hoggatt School was built in 1861- 62 for the families of pioneer children before Ames was established. It was first a country school and then was the first public educational building after Ames was established in 1864. The school was used for six years until 1868. The structure is restored to the 1862 time period.

This Summer's Activities and Programs:

- June 4:** **Hoggatt School Opening Event, 2-4 pm**
Music, soap-making demo, lemonade, ice cream
- June 11:** **Hoggatt in Context: Early Ames History, 2:15 pm**
Casie Vance tells the history of the area at the time Hoggatt opened
- June 18:** **Hands-On Buttermaking, 2-4 pm**
Make butter the way pioneer residents did – then taste it!
- June 25:** **Who Is That Hoggatt Guy Anyway? 2:15 pm**
Kathy Svec relates the story of this colorful, bigger-than-life character.
- July 2:** **Game Day at Hoggatt, 2-4 pm**
Play the simple but energetic games of the 1860s
- July 9:** **Where Are We? - An 1860s Geography Lesson, 2:15 pm**
Glenn Sibbel will present an 1860s geography lesson and word game.
- July 16:** **Old-Fashioned Soap-Making Demonstration, 2:15 pm**
Shannon Bardole will show how soap was made in the 1860s.
- July 23:** **Open House, 2-4 pm**
- July 30:** **What They Wore: Corsets, Bustles, and More, 2:15 pm**
Sharon Wirth will show, then let you try on Civil War-era clothing
- August 6:** **Game Day at Hoggatt, 2-4 pm**
- August 13:** **Open House, 2-4 pm**

Hoggatt is also open by appointment through October 31 (call 515-232-2148).

History Talks Accompany WWII Exhibit

WORLD WAR II: AMES DOING ITS PART

The current History Center exhibit, *WW II: Ames Doing Its Part*, commemorates the 75th anniversary of the start of U.S. involvement in World War II. The displays feature stories about day-to-day life in Ames from 1941-1945 for those who stayed at home and supported the war effort in countless ways. It will be on view through September 30, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm.

WW II Exhibit History Talks

Three history talks will enrich information about the WW II home front in central Iowa. All will take place at the Ames Public Library auditorium, 515 Douglas and are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, July 25, 7 pm

B17 Bomber Crash in Story County in 1944

Matt Donovan, Iowa D.O.T. Archeologist and Historian



In March 1944, a B17 bomber based in Kearney, NE crashed near Maxwell, IA, lost while flying in a snow and wind storm. The crash took the lives of seven crew members. A mail

carrier was the first to reach the scene on the Cleat Donahoo farm 40 miles from Des Moines. The Donahoos witnessed the crash from their bedroom, seeing an explosion before the ship fell. The speaker has researched aviation archaeology in Iowa and will provide interesting details about this WWII-era tragedy.

Tuesday, August 29, 7 pm

The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1940-45

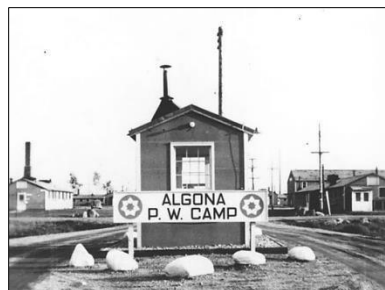
By Lisa Ossian, Des Moines Area Community College

Lisa Ossian divides Iowa's home front contributions into four fronts: farm, production, community and kitchen. Learn about Food for Freedom, directing farmers in all-out production. The "Arsenal of Democracy" stimulated small businesses and industries to fill military contracts while two new ordnance plants produced bombs and ammunition. Towns and cities exceeded records in eight war bond drives as well as scrap drives for metal, paper and rubber. Iowa's women met rationing and production requirements in home kitchens.

Tuesday, September 26, 7 pm

Working with the Enemy: German, Italian and Japanese Prisoners of War in Iowa WWII

By Chad Timm, Assoc. Prof. Education, Simpson College



With the successful 1942 Allied campaign against Adolf Hitler's Afrika Corps, the number of enemy prisoners of war that needed interment grew dramatically. Great Britain looked

to the U.S. for help. Eventually there were more than 500 camps including, in 1943, two in the state of Iowa. Timm will focus on the camps in Algona and Clarinda, discussing camp life, community relations, the POW labor program, branch camps in more than 30 Iowa communities and the arrival of Japanese prisoners at Camp Clarinda in early 1945.

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library. Supported by the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program. August and September programs made possible by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities

2017 Lecture Series

Be sure to catch the final lecture in the 2017 series at Ames Public Library's auditorium. Free and open to the public; provided in partnership with the Library.

Wednesday, June 28, 7 pm

Prehistoric Story County

By Matt Donovan, Iowa D.O.T. Archeologist and Historian



Matt will present the pre-history of Story County and Ames, starting with the ice age and continuing through time to native cultures and early historic settlements. He'll mix together topics on Iowa archaeology in general and the specific archaeology

and history of Story County with maps, pictures and artifacts. This will be a fascinating look at what existed in central Iowa long before European settlement.

If Society members have ideas or requests for the 2018 Lecture Series, please let us know!

Upcoming Events and Society News

More Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these Society events:

- **June 2:** ArtWalk Open House, History Center
- **June 17:** Community Ice Cream Social, 12 - 3 pm at the History Center
- **June 21:** "Do You Remember Pammel Court?" 7 pm, at Ames Public Library
- **Watch for** announcement of a Downtown Historic Plaque Walk this summer
- **August 26:** Annual Benefit Dinner, Oakwood Road Church (see next page)
- **September 24:** Annual Octagon Art Festival Open House at the History Center
- **October 27** – Main Street Cultural District Trick-or-Treating Open House
- **December 2** - Old-Fashioned Christmas at the History Center, 11 am - 2 pm

Society Wish List

Very grateful thanks go to JoAnn Kinart, Lori Burras and Wendy Livy for office supplies and to Jim Dresser for funding for archival boxes. Other wishes:

- Full socket wrench set (combined metric and standard)
- Logan 4000 mat cutter, 48" Adapt-a-Rule, and replacement blades (\$100 total)
- Funds for archival boxes for the collection (approximately \$13 each)
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)
- Office and building supplies: computer paper, sticky notes, pens, tall kitchen trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Donations toward a new copy machine (\$500)
- Donations toward printing the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.

Ames Cemetery Online

A new feature on the City of Ames website is a map and search function for the Municipal Cemetery. At www.cityofames.org/cemetery, search for burial locations, research burial records and look for available spaces for purchase. Obituaries, photos of markers and monuments, deeds and other records will be added as the project goes forward.

Foundation Adds Tree



The first step in re-landscaping Hoggatt School was recently completed when a new oak tree was placed near the school by the Ames Foundation's tree-planting program. We sincerely thank the Foundation and hope it will soon provide shade!

Helpful Website Tips

When using the Society's new website, these tips might make it a more enjoyable experience:

- To enlarge text (on ours and any website), press Ctrl and + (plus)
- On our website, click on photos to make them larger and to get the caption out of the way.
- The "Resources" section under Archives & Collections has been reorganized, making materials easier to find. Especially exciting is the selection of page-by-page readable telephone directories (1915-1972) with a search mechanism.
- You can make a donation or renew your membership right on the website with PayPal – see the links under the "Get Involved" menu.

Remember Pammel Court?

While Pammel Court may have passed into history, memory of it remains. A community lecture and panel discussion focusing on Iowa State's post-WW II housing community will be held June 21, 7 pm at the Ames Public Library. The evening will include a brief history of Pammel Court and its significance followed by a panel



discussion on what life was like in that married student housing community. The sponsors would like to especially encourage former

residents to attend and share their reminiscences and stories about this unique chapter in Iowa State's past. If you would like to volunteer to sit on the panel, please respond to mbarron@iastate.edu. Presented by Iowa State's History Department, Ames Public Library and Ames Historical Society.

Lost Ames

Facebook users may want to investigate a page developed by several local residents, Lost Ames. The page features nostalgic photos of "lost" Ames scenes and invites comments and reminiscences.

Thanking Board Members

March's annual meeting marks the annual turnover time for the Society's Board and we'd like to recognize and sincerely thank three members who ended their terms: Mary Atherly, Carol Alexander Phillips and Kathy Svec.

Mary Atherly joined the Board in 2008 after her retirement from ISU and brought valuable experience from her tenure on the staff of University Museums where she was also curator of the Farm House Museum. She was especially interested in collections but was a "jill-of-all-trades" for the Society, pitching in on a number of diverse projects from fundraising to writing an employee manual. She also served as co-president from 2012 to 2017.

Carol Alexander Phillips joined the Board in 2007 and served as curator for Hoggatt School. As a former child development professional at ISU, she initiated a solid program of activities and raised the bar for how the Society handled the school house museum. She said, "Hoggatt School seemed like a child I was adopting, moving through cycles of growth and development. I fell in love with Hoggatt in a very special way."

Kathy Svec joined the Board in 1989, overlapping with Farwell Brown's last year on the Board. In 1990 she assumed the presidency, a position she held for all but two of the 28 years she served on the Board. During her tenure, she witnessed the organization's exciting growth from one that existed in a file box that was handed from one officer to the next, to one with a permanent facility and paid, professional staff. She said, "Building an institution takes persistence over years!"

Both Mary and Kathy will continue volunteering for the Society.

News briefs

- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are:
 - Stevens Block
 - CyRide
 - ACTORS
 - A City Afloat: Floods of the 1990s
- Join the 1,934 people who **"like"** us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear weekly in the Ames Tribune are also posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments from our many followers!
- Investigate how your **purchases** through Amazon Smile can benefit the Society.
- Plan to use the member-only **25% off coupon** in the Museum Shop through June 30. See page 8.



2017 Annual Benefit Dinner: Save the Date: August 26

In keeping with our current exhibit,
WW II: Ames Doing Its Part,
a 1940s-themed benefit dinner will be presented:
"Ames Goes to War."

Watch for your mailed invitation to share an evening celebrating this important period in Ames history. Forties-era costumes are encouraged!



Iowa State University theater professor and historian, **Jane Cox**, will present a staged reading of World War II experiences of Iowa veterans from her book, *Heroes Among Us*.

The annual Farwell T. Brown Award will be announced and there will also be a live auction of unique community experiences.

Saturday, August 26, 2017

Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Program Following
Oakwood Road Community Center, Ames, Iowa
\$60 per person

*All proceeds benefit the Ames Historical Society,
helping it to fulfill its mission.*



The April lecture, *The Roosevelt: From Classrooms to Condos*, ended up being a Roosevelt mini-reunion!

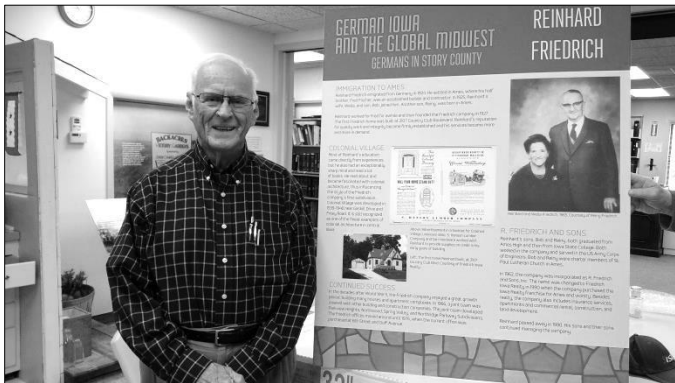


German Iowa

The touring exhibit, *German Iowa and the Global Midwest* and the series of accompanying programs co-sponsored by the Society were very well-attended. German-descent community members especially were pleased to learn more about their family heritage.



The exhibit (above) was displayed at the Public Library with special Society-produced panels highlighting three Ames German-American families. The exhibit is touring Iowa.



Reiny Friedrich was pleased to have his family featured on one of the special panels in the exhibit.



The German History Unfolded workshop was of special interest to genealogists.



A concert of German music rounded out the roster of programs that were sponsored by the Society, ISU History Department and Ames Public Library.

2017-18 Society Board

Co-presidents: Peter Hallock, Sharon Wirth

Treasurer: Ken Cameron

Secretary: Lynette Spicer

New to the Board:

Sarah Kassen, Bonnie Norman, Clarke Pasley

Continuing Members:

Shannon Bardole, Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Ian Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Hank Zaletel

Seeking Storytellers

The Society is forming a group of presenters who will take our wonderful local stories out to community



gatherings, clubs and youth groups. Presenters would work with a partner and speak from established scripts and slide shows, and would be coached until they felt comfortable with

the material. Perfect for someone who enjoys speaking and sharing stories! Contact the Society at 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org.

Beguiling Bequests/Life Savers

If you'd like to support the Society to a larger degree but it just isn't currently possible, consider a bequest or donation of life insurance on your next visit with your estate planner or financial advisor.

Charitable bequests and other estate gifts are fully tax deductible as a charitable contribution, so estates pay no federal estate tax or state inheritance tax. Wills and codicils to wills are the most common means of transferring gifts after death.

Donation of a life insurance policy results in a current income tax deduction and converts an asset that may no longer be needed into a significant



gift. Ames Historical Society can also be named as a partial or sole beneficiary of an insurance policy, or a policy can be written naming us as the beneficiary. In

the latter case, we hold the policy and make annual premium payments with an annual gift from the donor. The donor gets a tax deduction for the amount of the annual premium.

Local Stories – the WW II Years

For the 1964 Ames Centennial, an industrious committee wrote a 100-year history of our town. Each decade was undertaken by different sub-committees with researchers scrolling through newspaper microfilm to get an idea of the developments and pressing topics of their assigned years.

Here are highlights they gleaned from the WWII years, in conjunction with the current exhibit at the History Center. Continued from the last newsletter...

1944

- This story by an unknown woman is about the May 19, 1944 night of the big flood. "I had attended high school graduation at Story City and afterwards took a Greyhound bus to Ames. I was living at 413 6th Street, so I asked the driver if he would let us out as the bus came down 6th Street. The driver said it would be impossible as the water was too deep. He drove to the bus stop at the Sheldon-Munn Hotel. He announced if anyone wanted to get off they had better remove their shoes and socks. There was a lot of excitement as the merchants were bringing their goods up from basements filling up with water. We couldn't walk to 6th Street as the current was strong and the water was deep. There was no taxi service and cars were stalled everywhere. We were wading around barefoot on Main Street with other people who were marooned downtown. Everyone was eager to see what was happening at the different stores. We finally joined a crew at Frango's Restaurant where we stayed until a taxi could take us to 6th Street.



We got home at 3 o'clock in the morning."

- Iowa State reported that the U. S. Navy transferred the C.C.C. Camp ownership to them.
- Playground Commission held a meeting on the Youth Center.
- Joint meeting of Chamber of Commerce, Plan Commission and Real Estate Board concerning postwar zoning and housing conditions as they might develop in Ames.
- A nursery school for 22 children of working mothers and fathers in the service is at 308 Lincoln Way. City furnished utilities free.

1945

- In January 1945 the Ames Fire Department was awarded 2nd place in Iowa for its work in fire prevention during 1944. Fire losses in the city were nearly \$16,000 less than losses during 1943.

- Frank Vilimek announced January 4 that he had leased the store at 308 Main to A. E. Oslund for use as a drug store. Mr. Oslund planned to open a Walgreen Agency drug store.
- With the close of 1944, Iowa established a record 3-year low for smallpox. The 85 cases reported from 1942-44 was the lowest for any three year span since reporting was instituted in 1908.
- In January, Ames accepted the invitation of the National Camp Fire Girls, to offer its girls the opportunities of Area Membership.
- On January 24, 1945, the War Production Board issued Utilities Order U-9 prohibiting certain uses of electricity in the city of Ames. This was issued in an attempt to stop waste of electricity and power.
- The Iowa House passed a local option bill that allowed communities to decide whether to allow the sale of beer within their boundaries.
- An American Medical Association grant to Iowa State College was for their penicillin research.



- There was stunned disbelief in Ames when the nation's leader, President F. D. Roosevelt died. With the first radio flash, Ames telephones began to buzz. Flags throughout the city were immediately lowered to half-mast. Vice-President Harry Truman has now taken the President's position and title.



- The announcement of V-E Day on May 8, 1945, affected people in many different ways. Ames residents seemed to take the proclamation in stride. There was little of the celebration that marked the news of peace in Europe in 1918. Business was suspended in most stores. Customers and merchants clustered around the radio to hear the President, "We must work. The East still is in bondage." Ames residents realized that V-E Day was just the halfway mark in winning the war.
- A. E. Oslund opened his drug store on May 24. Plans were delayed because of difficulty in obtaining materials during war-time. The new drug-store was considered one of the most modern in central Iowa.
- In August, Ames residents received thanks from Belgium for the clothing gifts they sent during the war years.





Iowa observed victory over Japan after the announcement that the Japanese had unconditionally accepted the surrender terms on August 15.

- On December 26, 1,000 4-H Club boys assembled here to receive training in organization activities. The event was renewed after a wartime lapse.

1946

- The threat of rent control was hovering over Ames in January when the opening of Iowa State College's



winter quarter made the housing situation more serious than at any time since the start of WW II. The appearance of more than 500 unexpected

students-to-be at Iowa State College registration headquarters (above) threw such a heavy load on the administration machinery that opening of the winter quarter was postponed several days.

- On January 22, City Council took action on an ordinance providing for control over the emergency housing shortage conditions and two ordinances that made it easier for Ames to widen the two main highways through the city. The temporary housing ordinance enabled the city to approve or disapprove each individual housing project before the property owner started work on quarters that often were unsanitary and dangerous. The February results of the housing survey discovered rooming accommodations for 1,200 persons.
- Plans for extensive remodeling of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad depot into an attractive and modern station were revealed March 7.
- VEISHEA, Iowa State's spring open house, returned in all its pre-war splendor on May 9, 10, 11. Students and thousands of spectators joined in that year's 25th anniversary program.
- City bus service expanded from two routes to four, with corresponding improvements throughout the entire system. Midwest Transit had operated the service since September 1940.
- Ames was shown to be a more prosperous market, with a pent-up spending potential greater than that of most cities in the country, according to Sales Management's new survey of buying power.
- Ames Chamber of Commerce statistics proved that Ames was a rapidly growing city. The estimated population of Ames was 14,000, compared to 12,555 recorded in the 1940 U.S. census.

- Extensive additions to the facilities of the Ames office of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company were announced. They would increase and improve local and toll service, which have almost doubled in the last five years.
- Rent control for Story County was announced August 26. "The order is the result of unwarranted, unjustified rent gouging by a minority of landlords, prompting action by the U. S. Government."
- In September, Iowa State College acquired 1,433 acres of land in Ankeny for experimental purposes devoted exclusively to benefits for agriculture.
- A clean-up campaign, scheduled for October 21 to 24, was aimed at striking a blow to the long-time serious rat problem in Ames. There were approximately 50,000 rats in the city - two rats for every man, woman and child in Ames!

WW II Crawford Kids Stories

Contributed by Tom Emmerson

'Louise Crawford School Goes All Out 'To Back the Attack' read a December 1943 headline in the



Ames Tribune. It was part of a massive national War Bond drive ("He didn't count the cost... should you?") Crawford principal Abbie Sawyer reported that her school's 120 pupils had collected 11,300 pounds of papers, magazines and cartons which had been sold for \$45.20 and put toward two series E war bonds. In addition, pupils had purchased \$844.45 worth of defense stamps since January 1, 1943.

Crawford kids were also involved in filling special boxes "for the boys over there." As a first grader in 1943, Marcia Wilsie (Campbell) said the whole school filled the boxes which were about 4 x 8 x 3 inches. "We brought wash cloths, tooth brushes, toothpaste and similar things for our boxes," she said, "then we would draw a picture, sign our names and put it in the box." Wilsie said it was an "ongoing activity in Miss [Eileen] Stacy's first grade class" and, probably, throughout the school. The Crawford kids' efforts were replicated in every other school in Ames during WWII.

Five years after the end of WW II, Europe faced another bitter winter. Crawford kids swung into action. Instead of decorating the school's Christmas fir in the usual way, they were asked to bring a pair of mittens to put on the tree. The 175 pairs were then wrapped and packaged for distribution to children in Austria, France, Germany, Finland and Italy in December 1950.

Ames Historical Society
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Museum Shop



THE ENTIRE SHOP may be viewed on our new website – browse and order online!
www.ameshistory.org

THREE NEW BOOK TITLES:

A Culinary History of Iowa; Younkers, the Friendly Store;
Campustown: a Brief History of the First West Ames.

MEMBER DISCOUNT COUPON

With this coupon, **take 25% off** any purchase in the Museum Shop. Good through June 30.
Members only; not good with other offers.

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



Writer Anthony Capps signs books at an author-signing in February. His book, *Campustown, a Brief History of the First West Ames*, is for sale in the Museum Shop

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010